Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

Economic Statistics Released During the Week of February 10, 2003 to February 14, 2003

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Housing Starts (Thousands)	January			Canadian housing starts were at 183,200 in January, down 8.7% from December. Manitoba (24.2%) and Quebec (3.5%) were the only provinces with monthly increases, while Prince Edward Island remained level. The remaining provinces all experienced declines, led by Nova Scotia (-50.7%), Newfoundland (-40.0%) and New Brunswick (-23.8%). Alberta housing starts were down 8.7% from the previous month, and 10.2% below their level of January 2002.
Alberta	33,400	-10.7%	-10.2%	
Canada	183,200	-8.7%	-16.4%	
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	December			In December, Canada's new house prices were up 0.3% from the previous month, and 5.1% above their level of a year ago. Out of 21 regions surveyed, 12 had increases and 9 were unchanged from November. No region experienced a monthly decline. The largest monthly increases were reported in St. Catharines – Niagara (0.9%) and Calgary (0.8%). Annually, the largest increases were experienced by Edmonton (9.3%), Montreal (8.3%), Quebec (8.0%) and Ottawa -Gatineau (8.0%), with no region showing a decline from December 2001.
Canada	112.8	0.3%	5.1%	
Edmonton	126.4	0.3%	9.3%	
Calgary	146.2	0.8%	6.2%	
New Motor Vehicle Sales	December			New motor vehicle sales in Canada numbered 150,302 in December, up 6.3% from the previous month. New passenger car sales increased by 10.6% from November, while truck sales increased by 1.8%. Newfoundland (-2.5%) was the only province with a monthly decline, while the largest percentage increases were recorded in New Brunswick (23.0%) and Ontario (7.4%). Alberta sales increased by 1.5% from November, and stood 4.3% above their level of December 2001.
Alberta	17,344	1.7%	4.3%	
Canada	150,302	6.3%	2.7%	